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PERSONALITIES .. ON THE AIR ..

IN ONE of his articles Leslie S. Barnard says he used to sit with an organist at the console of a venerable three-manual organ when he was five years old. He supposes that he could date his debut from then, because he once interrupted the sermon by sounding a prolonged note on a handful of stops drawn on the choir manual. At a slightly later age (nine years old), H. Robinson-Cleaver was already a parish church organist, and a choirmaster two years later. Now he's a cinema organist, a broadcaster, and a maker of gramophone records. His signature tune is "Earful of Music."

At 4YA on Tuesday, January 17, H. Robinson-Cleaver, organist, will be heard in association with the famous rhythm pianist, Patricia Rossborough.

TALKS ON NEWS ABROAD

There is a story told of Magliabecchi, librarian to the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who could direct you to any book in any part of the world with the same precision that a London bobby directs you to St. Paul's or Piccadilly. Asked about the whereabouts of a particular volume, Magliabecchi (who worked, ate and actually slept all night in a chair among his beloved books), once replied: "It is in the Grand Seigneur's library at Constantinople, and is the seventh book in the second shelf on the right hand as you

administration. Anyone interested may look up the doctor's age in "Who's Who," but his youthful and modern outlook would lead you to think it was a misprint.

2YA listeners will hear Dr. Guy H. Scholefield in his weekly talk on "World Affairs" on Wednesday, January 18.

MAN WHO MADE DOWNING ST.

Oliver Cromwell's scout-master-general in Scotland, George Downing, was a rather remarkable man whose name is stamped on history in a two-fold manner. This man was one of the few who maintained his influence under both Cromwell and Charles II, which is all the more remarkable because Downing headed the movement for offering the crown to Cromwell. Charles made Downing a baronet, and no-

ing he was again heard by the Bishop, who declared: "The boy will do more good in the world outside."

Tito Schipa, tenor, will be heard from 1YA on Sunday, January 15.

RUBINSTEIN NOW PLAYS THEM

During the war, Arthur Rubinstein went to San Sebastian in Spain to play in the Brahms Piano Concerto, and while there he visited the widow of the composer Albeniz. "Why," asked his hostess, "do you never play the works of my husband?" "I do play them," Rubinstein replied, "but not being a Spaniard, I do not think that I express the real soul of the music." "Will you play some now?" asked the Senora. Of course Rubinstein played some—first one, and then a whole

LOTTE LEHMANN'S soprano voice wears very well, as her latest record (HMV. DA 1604) goes to prove. She selects three un-hackneyed Brahms songs, "The Message," "The Maiden Speaks," and "My Love Has a Mouth of Roses."

In the first song, "The Message," the lover begs the breeze, as it gently fans his beloved, to listen, and, should she be wondering if he still lives in sorrow, to whisper to her that he was indeed in the depths of gloom, until new hope came to him at the moment when he entered her thoughts. It will be seen that this is a man's song.

"The Maiden Speaks" gains added melodic charm from the graceful flutterings in the accompaniment. It is a little gem of a song, exquisitely sung. From its title it will be gathered that "My Love Has a Mouth of Roses" is also a man's song.

There are surely plenty of un-explored treasures of lieder for such fine singers as Lotte Lehmann instead of her recording songs which come better from male singers.

This is not to say, of course, that there's anything wrong with Lotte Lehmann's singing of them, and Erno Balogh is accompanist.

Voice Good

IN the vocal line George Gershwin's best music is embodied in his opera "Porgy and Bess." From this interesting work we have already had some recorded numbers, and now we have soprano Helen Jepson, who, with a chorus, gives us "Lullaby."

When Helen Jepson's first released record was reviewed in these columns, some remarks were made about her defective sense of pitch. Since then we learn that she is a glamorous platinum blonde, with soft brown eyes, a stunning figure, and much personal charm. We also learn that she can sing in tune—this "Lullaby" proves it.

But it is a pity that her words are so poorly enunciated that a first hearing of "Lullaby" leaves us in the dark as to the lines of the lyric.

In the duet with Lawrence Tibbett on the reverse side of the record (H.M.V. DB 3396) we get some assistance from the baritone, and we thoroughly understand why he sings "Bess, You are My Woman Now."

The recording took place under the supervision of the composer, therefore the version is entirely dependable and the record will be an interesting addition to any library. Helen Jepson has a voice of great beauty.

Serene Music

Of all the feasts of the Christian Church there is none more expressive of her boundless charity than the day set apart for the commemoration of All Souls. On this day she kneels in supplication on behalf of her dead, suing for their eternal peace. It is this touching memorial that Schubert sings in his exquisite "Litany."

In his new recorded piano version of this "Chant for the Repose of Souls," Alfred Cortot brings out Schubert's moving melody with much reverence. Every phrase is a prayer, every lovely tone a heartfelt appeal for those who have passed from earthly life.

On the reverse side of this record (HMV. DB 3338) Cortot plays "Des Abends" (At Evening) from Schubert's "Fantasiestücke." The serene mood of evening is finely conveyed. This is obviously one of those records not to be missed.



ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN.—The great artist of the piano now plays music of Spain.

thing seemed to stop his progress. As a side line, he indulged in a nice little bit of house speculation and founded in London the whole of Downing Street—a pretty open place where are four or five large houses fit for persons of honour and quality—the principal one of which is "No. 10," originally the residence of Cromwell's aunt, Elizabeth Hampden. Downing may have made a botch of his diplomatic career, but he certainly made history when he turned his attention to property speculation.

4YA listeners will hear a talk on "No. 10 Downing Street" by Mr. A. G. Smith, on Tuesday, January 17.

SCHIPA WAS GIVEN TO CHURCH

The life of Tito Schipa, almost from infancy, is said to have been one long song. Music was in his soul, and, while still a boy, he composed a Mass which was performed in the Cathedral at Lecce. Country folk flocked from far and wide to hear the music of the boy prodigy. His pious mother dedicated Tito to the Church, but the plan appears to have been upset by the Bishop who, having heard the boy's voice, offered to bear the cost of its training. Schipa was accordingly put under Maestro Gerunda for five years—three of which were spent entirely in vocal exercises. On completion of the period of train-

group. Judgment was pronounced that he could play them, and ever since he has included Spanish works in his recital programmes, his first performance taking place at Madrid shortly after his visit to Senora Albeniz.

Arthur Rubinstein, pianist, will be heard from 3YA on Wednesday, January 18.

MUSICIANS MOVE AROUND

Visit of members of the Auckland Choral Society to Wellington to take part in a mass festival performance of Handel's "Messiah" and the concert by the Wellington Schola Cantorum in Christchurch last year, recall similar courtesy interchanges of choirs between Dunedin and Christchurch. Among those who wholeheartedly promote such visits are Victor Peters and Alfred Walmsley. The latter was one of the originators, and for some years conductor, of the Adelaide Glee Club. For some years past he has lived in Dunedin, where his work with the Choral Society and the Madrigal Society, and his association with the music of First Church, under Dr. Galway, is highly esteemed by those who matter. Mr. Walmsley is equally well-known as a tenor soloist.

2YA listeners will hear Alfred Walmsley, tenor, on Tuesday, January 17.

Confessions Of People You Know

NICOLA, the famous magician now touring New Zealand to show his ancient craft to astonished thousands, this week gives his confessions to "Record" readers:

My eyes are: Blue.
My hair is: Getting thin on top.
Favourite colour for clothes: Grey.

My lucky day is: Every day.
My favourite play is: Music Master.

In my friends I look for the qualities of: Loyalty and honesty.

My favourite motto is: "I will" (Chicago's motto).

My pet aversion is: Liars.
I could happily spend the rest of my life in: Travelling the world as I have always done.

My favourite screen star is: Charlie McCarthy.

What has pleased me most about New Zealand: Queues in front of our theatre at every performance.

What has disappointed me most: The rate of exchange.

go in." His faculties were self-born and self-trained. Much the same may be said of New Zealand's Parliamentary Librarian, Dr. Guy Hardy Scholefield, who has qualified through a sound education, travel, war correspondence experience, journalism in London and New Zealand, and a capacity for